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## The Lefortova Hostage

When the KGB slapped U.S. News correspondent Nicholas Daniloff into Lefortova prison last Saturday on spying charges, very few people in the West doubted that this was another patented frame-up. Mr. Daniloff had been handed a packet of papers by a Russian acquaintance when he was nabbed. What do you know? The packet contained some maps and diagrams marked "secret," so it was off to the slammer for the five-year veteran of the Moscow beat. As of late yesterday, U.S. News chairman Morton B. Zuckerman and the State Department were trying to get Mr. Daniloff out of jail.

Compromising foreigners is routine stuff for the lads and lasses of Dzherzhinsky Square. But, unbelievably, we have heard Americans expressing surprise. "Don't they know there is a Reagan-Gorbachev summit at stake here?" runs one typical question.

Of course they know it. But they also have noticed that summit fever is again gripping Washington. The Russians years ago developed their own special diplomatic calculus. It comes into play when the other side displays eagerness for a deal. First you steal something, then you give it back, thereby earning gratitude. In short, you do not approach a major negotiation behaving well, you approach it behaving badly—thereby hoping to earn real concessions by merely promising to reform.

In the Daniloff case, the Russians might be hoping to earn even more. If, as now seems likely, the KGB grabbed Mr. Daniloff hoping to trade him for the freedom of Gennedy Zakharov, they might hope to conduct future espionage in the U.S. with even greater impunity than they enjoy now. Mr. Zakharov, a Soviet citizen employed by the U.N., is charged with paying a military subcontractor \$1,000 for classified documents dealing with a military jet engine. Wire stories yesterday quoted "U.S. officials" as

saying the U.S. had proposed releasing Mr. Zakharov to the Soviet ambassador pending trial in exchange for Mr. Daniloff's freedom.

The KGB performed a similar stunt when it seized an American businessman, F. Jay Crawford, eight years ago and tried to trade him for two Soviet spies. Mr. Crawford was released after 13 days in prison. The two spies were later traded for five Soviet dissidents.

While American diplomats have been walking on eggs for fear of disturbing chances for a summit, the Soviets have taken an opposite approach. They have reneged on their commitments to buy U.S. grain, thereby extracting a promise of generous subsidies from U.S. taxpayersthey're still holding out, by the way. They have conducted a vicious stormtrooper offensive in Afghanistan, all the while making noises about pulling a few of their troops out of that tortured country. General Secretary Gorbachev, on a tour of the Soviet far east, has declared that the Soviet Union must henceforth be regarded as a Pacific power. More helicopter gunships have been funneled into Nicara-

After all that, Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin declared in Washington last week, while making the rounds of the State Department, that the Soviets don't want an "empty summit." Apparently, State wasn't offering up big enough inducements.

At this stage, the Reagan administration needs to show it's not consumed by summit fever, and to demonstrate that the bad-guy, good-guy gambit doesn't always work. One way would be simply to scrap the summit, reoffering the invitation next year if relations improve. The loss would be small enough, since the Daniloff case raises once again the profound question of what can be expected of a summit with folks who negotiate by slapping innocent Americans in jail.